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S H O C H I K U

"KIYOMASA WAKARE-NO-HITOFUSHI"

Kabuki play in THREE ACTS

Written by the Third KAWATAKE Shinshichi

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KIYOMASA WAKARE-NO-HITOFUSHI

Synopsis :

One day Tokugawa-Iyeyasu and Toyotomi-Hideyori had a meeting at the Niyo palace. Kato-Kiyomasa, who attended Hideyori on the occasion, could not but eat the poisonous bun served by Shibukawa, a Tokugawa retainer.

Ikeda-Terumasa and Asano-Sakinaga, Kiyomasa's fellow retainers followed his example and was about to kill each other to cover up the fact, when Kiyomasa came to dissuade them saying that it would only aggravate the rupture between the two families.

Kiyomasa himself made up his mind to return home to conceal the cause of his disease from public knowledge.

Ono-Doken, a crafty retainer to Hideyori, however, sought for his mother Lady Yodo's favour and instigated her to bear Iyeyasu malice.

Kiyomasa, regretful of his, stopped his plan of going home and decided to stay in Osaka in secret, ready to quell tumult when one should occur.

He, however, was much moved by the kindness of Sakakibara-Yasumasa, a Tokugawa retainer, and came to know that Iyeyasu had no malice against the Toyotomis.

So he started for home committing all to Iyeyasu's kind intentions.

ACT I

Scene I.

(Festival scene of the Gion Shrine Plum blossoms are in full bloom. The curtain rises with the sound of a festival music.)

Organizer: Are you all here? Let's all go to the Toyokuni shrine at Amida-ga-mine in a procession when it becomes dark.

Man I: That'll be good. Well, our community is the best arrayed of this festival.

Man II: That's a matter of course Gion is a place where most of the best artistes of Japan live. It'd be a shame if it weren't best arrayed.

Man III: And there's the popular song composed by the master newly-come from the East.

Man IV: And the orchestra people are veterans, too.

Man V: And the arrangement of dance by Master Fujima. Hope It'll be well-done.

Woman I: It's all right with us women but how about you men?

Woman II: You're always out of tone and we have a bad time of it trying to keep time.

Woman III: Let's better have a rehearsal here.

Woman IV: And dance very well at Amida-ga-mine.

Woman V: Talk to them about it, will you?

Organizer: It's a good idea, but it's becoming dark. Let's just go in procession.

(All go out, accompanied by a gay music. The stage changes.)

Scene II.

(The scene of the Toyotomi shrine at Amida-ga-mine.
Mountains at the back.)

Joruri music: "There come two brave men

In the light of the dim moon".

(Ikeda-Terunasa and Asano-Sakinaga, dressed as
warriors, come into stage separately and meets
each other in mid-stage.)

Joruri: "The nightingale sings in the mountain
And the echo comes back."

Terunasa: Who's that?

Sakinaga: Why, you're Esq. Ikeda.

Teru: On, it sounds like Esq. Asano

Saki: You and I -----

Teru: With the same intention ----

Saki: Have come here -----

Teru: To bid farewell to the honorable grave of his
Highness Toyotomi's.

Saki: And then I intend to go home.

Teru: And I, the same.

Joruri: "The moon shines
Through the boughs".

(The two sit on little rocks.)

Teru: Well, may I ask if nothing was the matter with
you while you stayed at home?

Saki: Well, I suspect that the cakes offered by Shibukawa

must have been poisonous. Were you all right?

Teru: I thought so when they were offered, and thought of refusing to eat it. But, as Shibukawa took much trouble in Tasting it himself, I thought it better to pretend not to know the fact.

Saki: Moreover, Esq. Kiyomasa ate one of them before us and it'd have been a shame if I hesitated. It's as good as dying in battle-field to be poisoned by an offering to the Toyokuni shrine.

Teru: So I asked Minister Hideyori to be discharged and have come here to bid farewell. You meant to do the same, didn't you?

Saki: Sure I did. And we'd be good companions.

Teru: Let's just commit a happy despatch.

Saki: Let's just pay homage.

Both: To the shrine first.

Teru: Now I pay homage to the deity Toyokuni. I, Terumasa Ikeda, followed Minister Hideyori to the Nijo palace. On that occasion, Shibukawa, one of the Tokugawa retainers, served us cakes offered on the altar. I knew it was ~~xxx~~ poisonous, but I couldn't but eat it. I've been to the battle field several times but have survived. Now I'm going to prefer honest death to shameful life.

Saki: And I, sakinaga, have got the same intention. The reason to all this is that Lady Yodo has been conceited and arrogant ever since you died. And she resents the Tokugawas unnecessarily. And if we try to advise her out of doing so, she takes it as if we had forgotten all your kindness to us. So we loyal vassals have nothing to do -----

Teru: But put our lives to end.

Saki: Excuse us for disturbing your resting place.

Teru: Come, Esq. Asano.

Saki: The sooner, the better.

(They are just going to stab each other, when Kato-Kiyomasa appears from behind the stupa.)

Kiyomasa: Oh, you mustn't

Teru: Oh, you're Esq. Kato -----

Kiyo: Deity Toyokuni must be very much contented with your faithfulness, but you mustn't die today.

Teru: And why?

Kiyo: If you two kill yourselves just now, Ono and his son will contrive something desperate and it'll put the Minister to much trouble. Are you still going to dye?

Teru: Oh, I don't mean to desert him -----

Saki: It's all for him that we take trouble.

Kiyo: Why are you deserting him, then?

Two: Well -----

Kiyo: Well, I think I needn't mention it to you now, but ever since Lord Hideyoshi died, the relation between the Toyotomi and Tokugawa families has been on such a pressure. Are you sure that our army can get better of the Tokugawas if we get into conflict?

Teru: Are you so afraid of Tokugawa?

Kiyo: I'm not. I've intended to resist him as soon as I get a smell of some conspiracy, but I've changed my mind today.

Teru: Why is it?

Kiyo: Minister Hideyori is now 19 years old. He's to be under Esq. Tokugawa's guardianship until he's 25.

Teru: Then you insist to keep peace?

Kiyo: So long as he has such devoted retainers as Shibukawa, he's not to be made little of. Don't be so hasty.

Teru: Well, I think we'll just comply with your advice -----

Saki: And go to home respectively.

Kiyo: Then I can be at rest.

(A drum sounds from behind the stage.)

Teru: The drum is sounding from the hill Amida-ga-mine
informing that anyone may mount it to pay homage
on to-night's festival.

Saki: Many citizens are coming up here, I think.

Kiyo: Now, shall we go?

(Stage changes)

Scene III.

(Street near Gion. The river Kamo runs down-stage. A ballad
sounds from behind the stage.)

Song: "When the plum-blossom falls
The miscanthus comes out;
And so the town is
Always adorned with flowers,
Yoiya-sa Yoiya-sa."

(A group of townspeople come dancing into stage and then
out. Meantime Kiyonasa, Terumasa and Sakinaga have appeared and
looked at the procession. As the townspeople are out with
their flowerly lanterns:)

Kiyo: Have you heard the song, both of you?

Teru: That's the ballad very popular in Kyoto now.

Saki: "When the plum-blossom fall, the miscanthus
comes out, and so the town is always adorned
with flowers."

Kiyo: The plum-blossom is the Toyotomi government,
 the miscanthus, the Tokugawas.

Teru: How mortifying it is.

(The three look at each other, as the Curtain
Falls with the sound of wooden clappers.)

ACT II

Scene I.

(The big Hall of the Osaka Palace. Four daimyo (feudal lords) sit on stage as the curtain rises.)

Lord I: Well, last night, Esq. Ono, the chief retainer,
summoned us suddenly -----

Lord II: Saying that there was a secret council. So we four
have come here before dawn.

Lord III: It must be something urgent.

Lord IV: Shall we go to his room?

Ono-Doken: (behind the stage): Oh, you needn't. I'm just
coming.

(Ono-Michitake comes in from the right.)

Doken: Thanks for your labour to have come here.

Lords: And what's the secret council, please?

Doken: Well, it's nothing but this. As Lord Hideyori
visited the Nijo palace, Hachiemon Shibukawa, old/
vessel of Tokugawa, served some cakes to the four
attendants of my lords. Ikeda-Terumasa and Asano-
Sakinaga, two of them, asked for leave and went home
the very day. Asano, one of them, has been informed
to have died for disease. It must be for the chin
venom in the cake he ate and it cannot be left
as it is.

Lord I: Well, it was my lord's first visit to Kyoto,
and many of our brave retainers attended on him -----

Lord II: With Kiyomasa at the head.

Lord III: So the smart Lord Iyeyasu seemed to have been afraid
of our guard and so entertained us very hospitably.

Lord IV: It's highly improper that he should have planned to
poison Ikeda and Asano.

Doken: We must first examine if there was the awful
plan or not. The fact that old Shibukawa, who
took a taste, died on the very day, is surely a
convincing proof. I think we'll have to provide
for killing Lord Iyeyasu not to let him go on his
way any more. What do you think?

Lord I: Of course I'm of the same opinion. Lord Iyeyasu
is very ambitious though he pretends to be
modest.

Lord II: His poisoning our fellow retainers ----

Lord III: Is the preparation for killing our lord and then to
rule over the country.

Lord IV: The only thing for us to do is take advantage ----

Lord I: And get Iyeyasu's head.

Lord II: Let's make preparations.

Doken: It's admirable of you to say so. We mustn't lose time.

Hirano-Nagayasu (behind the stage): It's no use to make such
a plan -----

All five: Who's that?

(Nagayasu comes into stage.)

Doken: Why, you're Esq. Hirano ----

Lord I: And what's your reason for stopping us?

Nagayasu: Well, it'll be accused of being careless if you start something before making sure that they have died of poison. Moreover, it may cause a general tumult against your will.

Doken: Oh, it's cowardly of you to be afraid of the influence of ~~the~~ Lord Tokugawa.

Lord I: We just plan for our lord.

Lord II: And try to save the country out of trouble.

Lord III: You are disloyal to stop us.

Naga: I'm sure I'm not. I try to stop you~~for~~ my lord's sake.

Five: How is it?

Naga: Ever since Lord Hideyoshi died, Tokugawa has gained over the people with his benevolence and have tried to conquer the whole country as soon as he finds a chance. If you ever make the least movement to resist him, it'll cause a fatal destruction for our lord and his family.

Doken: It's because you're cowardly that you think so. It's the surest proof that Shibukawa died on the same day. This is the only chance to punish Iyeyasu for poisoning our valuable warriors. It's disloyal to hesitate now.

Naga: I'm not so sure Shibukawa died for poison.

Doken: Do you say that you're sure he died of ordinary disease?

Naga: I don't say so. But Esq. Katagiri, who brought home his cake, partook of it with his mother and both of them are safe and sound. You, Esq. Ono, are to be very careful being the chief retainer. It's highly improper of you to have instigated these young people. Just tell me so, if you're quite sure about the poisoning.

Doken: Well -----

Naga: You'd better stop making conspiracies.
(A tea-boy comes into the stage-passage.)

Boy: Lord Ono, please -----

Doken: Well?

Boy: Esq. Kiyomasa Kato has come to the palace and begs you to ask my lord for his leave.

Lord I: For his leave?

Doken: It's strange he comes here now, for I was sure he had died of poison. Well, shall we go and see to it?

Lords: Certainly we shall.

(All the five retire from stage.)

Nagayasu, left behind -----:)

Naga: Ever since he first went to war when very young, he has been to many a battle-field and has been always very brave. He's not a man to go home leaving my lord in this difficult condition. If the poison ---- (A pause)

Naga: Or, shall I pray into his mind?
(The stage changes.)

Since II.

(The back-palace in Osaka-jo. Hideyori, as a child, sits on a thick cushion. Ladies in attendance sit in a row at his back.

Joruri: "It is in the inner rooms of the Osaka palace where Lord Hideyori sits
Attended by many ladies."
"Katagiri-Katsunoto, his tutor,
Appears and says:"

Katsunoto: My lord. As I have said to you before, Kiyomasa has been asking for leave. I asked your honorable mother as to it and she says she leaves it to your discretion. Give him your leave please.

Hideyori: I'll give him leave if mother thinks it proper.

Katsu: Thank you so much, my lord.

Okura-no-Tsubone, a lady in attendance: Kiyomasa first went to war when he was thirteen and has been a brave fighter ever since. Your honorable father Lord Hideyoshi used to say that Kato was the best of warriors. And he is now the biggest of your retainers receiving a fief of 540,000 koku. I wonder how it is that he asks for leave now.

Shokei-no-Tsubone, another lady in attendance: Well, it's a popular rumour that Esq. Tokugawa aims at murdering my lord and taking rule of the country. I don't believe it wholly true, but it's rather strange he should go home at such a difficult time. Your honorable mother thinks that he must have got some secret cause.


Katsu: Well, I suspect it's so, but Kiyomasa is quite resolute about it. May I tell him he can come into your presence, my lord?

Hide: I'd so much like to see him. Call him here, will you?

Katsu: He's just waiting for your summon.
Call him, ladies.

Shokei (addressing toward behind stage): Come in, Kiyomasa.

Kiyo: Certainly.

Joruri: "There appears Kato-Kiyomasa,  Unusually depressed and dejected."

Kiyomasa (squatting in the stage passage): I am so glad to have the honour of seeing you.

Okura: Well, you've asked to see my lord to ask for leave -----

Shokei: So he's waiting for you.

Hide: Come nearer, Kiyomasa.

Kiyo: Yes, my lord. (approaches.)

Katsu: Tell the honorable lady that Kiyomasa has come.

Okura & Shokei): Certainly. (about to go.)

Lady Yodo: You needn't come. I'm just coming.

Joruri: "So saying, Lady Yodo comes in
Attended by many chamber-maids.
Though she is now a widow,
She still is pretty and noble-looking."

Yodo: Now, Kiyomasa, I've heard all about you from Katsumoto. You want to go home?

Kiyo: Well, my lady, I'm over fifty now.

Let me have a little time for me, please.

Yodo (peeping into his face): Come nearer.

Kiyo: Yes, my lady.

Yodo (accompanied by a music): It may be needless to say so, but the late Lord Hideyoshi gave you the family name of Toyotomi and deemed you as a member of the family. We've relied on you ever since he died. I don't understand how it is that you ask for lieve now.
You once said you'd stay here until Lord

Hideyori becomes 15 years old and able to rule over the country himself. It's rumoured that Esq. Tokugawa plans to get rid of my lord. Are you afraid of the Tokugawa powers and try to conceal yourself? It's cowardly of you.

Joruri: "Kiyomasa, still persisting.

In concealing his intension -----"

Kiyo: Well, my lady, I have been to many a fighting field including Yamazaki, Shizugaoka, Satsuma and other places. And I have been always victorious. I'm not at all afraid of Esq. Tokugawa. And he is a warrior both brave and benevolent. He cannot be so violent as to plan to murder my lord. And, even if he tries to, Katagiri-Katsumoto is with my lord to take care of him and this Osaka castle is equal to any enemy. Moreover, I, too, shall come any time when there is something the matter with my lord. You needn't worry about anything.

Joruri: "As he says so,

His words are so sincere

That no one ever dreams of doubting it."

Katsu: Well, my lady, as he says himself, he is not a man to desert his lord and his friends. Just believe him and comply with his request, please.

Yodo: It's real that he is a loyal and trust-worthy man.
(Kiyomasa and Katsumoto look at each other
rather awkwardly.)

Yodo (without noticing their countenance).

You must be very tired after many years' service.
I think you may go home and rest yourself.

Kiyo: Oh, will you comply with my request, then?

Yodo: Rest yourself at home and have a peaceful winter
of life.

Kiyo: Thank you my lady. And thank you for your
mediation, Esq. Katsumoto.

Katsu: I'm glad for you.

Kiyo: Oh, thank you.

Okura: Well, we shall never forget the service you did
on the occasion of the big earthquake the other
year.

Shokei: You looked so brave and full of spirit then.
But now you look pale and worried. Take good
care of yourself, please.

Maid I: We'll hope to see you full of spirit again.

Maid II: Hope for my lord's growing-up.

Maid III: He's so fond of you and calls you "uncle."

Maid IV: You'd better give him a farewell greeting.

Kiyo: It's so kind of you to say so.

Katsu: Just take your leave of him in this world ---
I mean at this place.

Joruri: "Then Lord Hideyori

Leaves his cushion -----"

Hideyori: Now, Kiyomasa, I'll give you leave you ask.

Go home and have a rest.

Kiyomasa: Thank you so much for your benevolent discretion.

Katsu: Come nearer my lord, Kiyomasa.

(approaching Hideyori himself.) My lord, listen to what he says, please.

Hide: Say anything you like.

Kiyo: Oh, thank you my lord. Well, though I have received much more benevolence than I deserve, and have done as much as possible for me, I am now too old to remain in service. I feel that I'm taking a life-long leave of you. Now, listen to what I say, please.

(Accompanied by samisen music.)

As you were born and became possessed of discretion, you took to me calling me "uncle". It is awful to say so but I have always deemed you as my own child.

Well, as I am taking leave, I'll have no other chance to see you. As you rule over the country after I'm dead, listen to what Katsumoto says and never try to resist the Tokugawas.

If you become intimate with Esq. Iyeyasu as if he were your father, you'll be able to rule over the country with the people taking to you.

What I have said is something corresponding your honorable father's will. Comply with it, please.

Joruri: "As Kiyomasa gives his advice

The young lord answers

With tears in his eyes."

Hide: It's all right about it. But, are you never coming back, as you go home now?

Kiyo: Oh, I should like so much to come back after some time of rest, but as I'm bent and furrowed-faced with age, I cannot but go if the boat comes to take me to the other shore of the life.

Joruri: "And his tears roll down his cheek

As he reluctantly takes leave

Of his beloved lord.

Young Lord Hideyori, too,

Winks hard trying not to cry."

Hide: Let me have a good look at you, then.

(Clings to Kiyomasa's beard and peeps into his face.)

Kiyo: Let me, please.

Joruri: "Kiyomasa, though so brave,

Is very much touched with the parting.

Katsumoto, considering how hard it must be, says:"

Katsu: It's natural that my lord should be so reluctant to let his favorite Kiyomasa go, and Kiyomasa, to leave his young lord behind I couldn't help shedding tears over your sorrow.

Yodo: It's human that Kiyomasa, though so brave, should
be moved by my lord's tenderness.

Okura: We heartily sympathize with you -----

Shokei: And have shed tears of compassion.

Kiyo: Thank you for all your kindness I've shed iron
tears. Ha-ha-ha.

Yodo: Let's give him a parting cup. Get ready, maids.

Maids: Certainly, my lady.

Doken (Behind the stage): I've got it ready

Joruri: "Ono-Doken, who always curries favour with Lady Yodo,
Comes in with two pages
Carrying a cup, a bottle and some dishes."

Yodo: Why, you're Ono-Doken
I'm contented with your kind solicitude

Doken: I'm over-honored.

Yodo: Now, Kiyomasa, have a cup before you go.

Kiyo: But, I'm in a hurry, so-----

Doken: It's selfish of you to say so.
Take the cup with thanks to my lord and my lady.

Kiyo: But-----

Doken: You usually drink so much.
Have you got something in your mind to refuse to
take the cup?

Kiyo: I'm very much honored with my lady's words of kindness but I abstain from wine for some special invocation.

Doken: Why, you -----

Kiyo: Yes, that's it.

Katsumoto (trying to back up Kiyomasa): It's ~~x~~ awful to contradict my lady's words, but invocations mustn't be broken. I ask you, my lady, excuse him, please.

Hide: I'll give this to you for keepsake, then.

(Hands his fan to Kiyomasa.)

Kiyo: Thank you very much, my lord.

Hide: Give me something, too -----

Kiyo: But ----

Yodo: Oh, give him something, Kiyomasa.

Kiyo: But it's awe-inspiring.

Doken: It's ungrateful of you to refuse the offered parting cup and then to give my lord nothing in return for his fan. You'd better mention him something, my lord.

Hide: I won't let you go without any keepsake.

Kiyo: But I'm vexed -----

Doken: How about a memento?

Kiyo: Well -----

Joruri: "As he is at his wit's end,

It occurs to him to sing the balled -----"

Kiyo: Well, my lord, I've got an idea.

Yodo: And what is it?

Katsu: Well -----?

Kiyo: No article. It's just a ballad now very popular in Kyoto. Think it my souvenir, please.

Katsu: And it's a good idea.

Doken: I've heard the song and seen the dance, too. You'd better ask him to dance while singing.

Hide: That'll be so much better.

Kiyo: It's too much of you to ask it. I'm very bad at such things.

Hide: Do dance, uncle.

Doken: It's my lord's wishes.

Kiyo: I receive it. (Much vexed.)

Katsumoto: Well, Kiyomasa, it'll be a good chance to retire -----

Kiyo: I'll comply with my lord's wishes. Don't laugh at me, please, for I'm very bad at it. (Under his breath) What shall I do?

Joruri: "When the plum-blossom falls,
The miscanthus comes out;
And so the town is
Always adorned with flowers.
Moi-yoi yoiya-sa."
(Kiyomasa dances awkwardly as he sings.)

Hide: How amusing.

Kiyo: Let me take leave now.

Katsu: Let him have it, please, my lord.

Hide: Take good care of yourself.

Kiyo: I'll hope for your good health, my lord.

(Kiyomasa is about to go out through the stage-passage, when Hideyori starts from Katsumoto's laps and follows him.)

Hide: Are you going now?

Kiyo: Yes, my lord. Now, Esq. Katsumoto, I hardly need to say, but be very careful with your duty of assisting the young lord.

Katsu: Don't worry about it, for I'll do it even for life.

Kiyo: I'll go home with relief, then.

Katsu: But it is the last -----

Kiyo: Your leave, my lord ----

Hide: Fare you well.

Kiyo: Oh, thank you, my lord. (Goes out.)

(Hideyori follows him with his eyes. Katagiri feels pity for the young lord.)

Doken (irritated): You'd better return to your usual seat, my lord.

Hide: May I see him off up in the tower?

Doken: You'd better not, for it'll disgrace your authority.

Yodo: He may look out in the tower if he likes.
At your discretion, Katsumoto.

Katsu: I think you may do so. To the tower, my lord.

Okura: My lord ----

Maids: We'll follow you.

(Stage changes.)

Scene III

(Kiyomasa's residence. The master of the house doses just within the threshold.

(A pause)

Suddenly, Kiyomasa awakes and looks round.)

Kiyomasa: Why, it was a dream ----

(accompanied by a samisen music.)

Well, I have taken leave of my lord at the castle today. But, as I have left something untold, I've been worrying about it. That's why I've dreamed of the time when I took leave of my lord when he was very young and he clung to my beard.

He clung so much to me and it has been always in my mind.

(Denzo, the valet, comes into stage.)

Den: Master -----

Kiyo: What's that, Denzo?

Den: I have been, at your order, to the castle to sound the movement of Ono-Doken and his son. I've heard that they are getting ready for an attack on the mansion of Esq. Tokugawa.

Kiyo: You say that they've gone and started an inconsiderate action?

Den: It may cause a general tumult of the country.

Kiyo: It's because of Lady Yodo's partiality for Ono.

Den: She's a woman after all.

Kiyo: I cannot go home in relief.

(The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers as the two look at each other.)

ACT III. Scene I.

(A stable in the left. It has an entrance of six feet. A gate with a cross-bar at the middle of the stage. A small pine-tree. This is Kiyomasa Kato's residence in Osaka. Footman Kakusuke with a towel around his head is surrounded by four tother footmen. Footman Mamesuke is near him. Denzo is in the right. Curtain opens with music.)

Four Footmen: Be quiet, be quiet!

Denzo: Hey, footmen! You are strangers here. Why do you make such noises?

Mamesuke: Excuse me, but we two are footmen serving at your neighbour's. This Kakusuke here is now suffering from smallpox. He has not become better, when we have heard that the disease recovers if the patient is stepped over by the horse of this mansion. So we asked your footmen and have taken the patient here.

Denzo: I'm surprised to hear it.
Of course the pidemic will be cured when the patient is stepped over by my master's excellent steed. But my master started for his native land the day before yesterday, and he took his horse with him. So the horse is not here.

Footman A: But in this stable -----

Four Footmen: The horse is ----

Denzo: Shut up! I told you footmen that the horse was not here. And you made such a blunder. You

fools!

(The footmen understand what he means.)

Footman A: Oh, I see. The horse is not here, of course.

Footman B: Our master took it with him the day before yesterday.

Footman C: We forgot it. But now we remember that the horse is not here.

Four Footmen: We made a mistake.

Mamesuke: I didn't know it, so I bought some wine and got some peas for the horse and took the patient here. It's a loss of two litres of wine to me.

Kakusuke: I won't be bitten by a horse. Help me! Help me!
'He pushes others away and runs away to the left.
Mamesuke and other footmen follow him.)

Denzo: Footmen are always talkative. It's a trouble.
(Music) When my master heard of Ono's behaviour the other day, he ordered his retainers to leave in state for his home place, and he himself has been staying in the room, I don't know why. His horse in this stable is also dispirited and takes nothing at all. It's very strange. My master told me that I should say to any messenger that my master had left for his home place. I don't understand the reason, but I told all his retainers as I had been told. The footmen, however, are chatter-boxes, and they must have

spoken to others of my master's being confined to the room. It's a bother that we have had so many people come to ask after his health.

(Fujii, an old waitress, comes in from the gate. She is nicely dressed and carries a silver pitcher. She wears a pair of garden clogs.)

Fujii: Oh, you've been here, Denzo?

Denzo: I didn't expect you to come.
What brought you here?

Fujii: Our master kindly told me to give the horse some water which had been offered to the Myoken Shrine, so I brought it here.

Denzo: Thank you for your trouble.
It's strange that the horse which had never fallen ill before should be sick and eat nothing at all.

Fujii: When he heard of it, he was very anxious and thus gave half of the sacred water.

Denzo: Then I'll give it to the horse now.

Fujii: Please do so.

(Music. Denzo goes into the stable and derives out the sorrel horse with him. He carries out a manger and put it before the horse. Fujii pours some water into the manger out of the pitcher. The horse drinks it. The two look at the sight.)

Denzo: Fujii! Though he is an animal, the horse must appreciate our master's benevolence, for he gladly

bend down and drinks the water.

Fujii: Though he doesn't speak, I see tears in his eyes, and he leaves not a drop of the water.

Denzo: He has drunk it to the last drop.

Fujii: Sacred water in the manger.

Den: He seems to know the benevolence.

Fujii: It's natural because ---

Denzo: Our master is so kind and tender.

Fujii: He is kind to all.

Two: He is so merciful.

(A page comes in from the gate.)

Page: Fujii-dono! Lord Hirano Omi has come to inquire after our master's health.

Fujii: Lord Hirano again?

Denzo: Please turn him away.


Fujii: I'll see him. (She goes out through the gate. Denzo bridles the horse again.)

Denzo: Hey, Bungo. Lead the horse into the stable. Be quick.

Page: Certainly, sir.

(He leads the horse to the stable. Denzo carries the manger into the stable. The page closes the door.)

What else can I do for you?



- Denzo: Go to the neighbour's gate and ask secretly if a footman named Kakusuke went out of the gate when he was suffering from smallpox.
- Page: Certainly, sir. (Goes out to the left.)
- Denzo: If the fact that my master is staying here in secret should be known to the neighbour, it would be my fault. I ought to be very, very careful. Now I'll go to my room and wait there for a report. (Music. Denzo goes out through the gate. Kakusuke comes in running from the left and peeps into the stable. Mamesuke comes in from the left.)
- Mamesuke: I find you.
(He speaks these words loudly and then looks around. Kakusuke in a low voice.)
- Kakusuke: By the way, neither you nor I have any reason to help the Kanto forces. But we serve as spies for reward. It's only a means to get money.
- Mamesuke: If we report to the Kanto forces that Kiyomasa is staying here in his residence pretending to have left for his home place, we can get as much money as we desire for reward.
- Kakusuke: Now I'll steal into the house and get further information.
- Mamesuke: I'll go and report to the Kanto forces that the horse is here in the stable.
Get further information, please.

Kakusuke: That's quite all right.

Go at once and report it.

Mamesuke: Be careful lest you should be caught.

Kakusuke: I'm all right. You take care.

Mamesuke: So long, Kakusuke.

Kakusuke (in a loud voice): Let's divide the reward
equally, you know.

Mamesuke: Hush!

(The two look around. Sound of bell. The stage
revolves.)

Scene II

(A parlour. Sliding screens in the back. Lord Nagayasu
Hirano is seated in the right. An ash-tray in front of him.
Waitress Fujii is in the left. Stage stops with music.)

Fujii: I'm awfully sorry to say when you are kindly come,
but my master has left here and so he can't see
you.

Nagayasu: I've come here to inquire after Kato's health,
because I heard that he was ill. But he left
for his home place in the morning the day before
yesterday?

Fujii: When he took leave of Udaijin-Ke (Hideyori Toyotomi) the other day, he immediately left here on the following morning.

Nagayasu: It's a great regret. I could guess what Kiyomasa was thinking. But as there were many wicked persons in the castle, I parted with him ~~o~~ curtly on purpose. As I heard that he was ill, I have come here to ask his opinion. But he has left for home. I came too late. It was my error that I didn't come earlier. It's indeed a great pity.

Fujii: Mr. Susukida came just now. But I turned him away with the same apology. As you are especially intimate with our master, he meant to call on you or invite you before starting. But as he had to leave at once, he could not do so. He left here in the morning the day before yesterday, telling me to ask your pardon afterwards.

Nagayasu: ~~On~~ some urgent business?

Fujii: Yes.

Nagamasa: I see. Now that he has gone, there's no help for it, Fujii: And did your master Kiyomasa left for home in good health?

Fujii: Yes, quite in good health. Though it was before dawn, he said he would start on foot because it would be improper to go otherwise in Osaka.

Nagayasu: I feel relieved to hear it.

Fujii: What do you mean?

Nagamasa: Listen to me, Fujii. To tell the truth, when I saw him in the castle the other day, I felt relieved because he was as healthy as ever. Terumasa and Yukinaga had died of illness at their homes. It was strange that Kiyomasa was asked to leave the Udaijin-Ke. So I came here in secret so as to ask his opinion. But now I feel relieved to hear that he has started for home in good health. I believe you also will go home afterwards. Then please tell him what I was thinking.

Fujii: You have always been good friends with him. You are so kind as to have come with such intention. I'm really sorry. I can't tell you -----

Nagayasu: What?

Fujii: No, --- My master will be glad when I tell him what you said.

Nagayasu: I think I'm going now.

Fujii: Good-bye, Lord Hirano.

Nagayasu: It's a great pity indeed!

(He stands up. Denzo opens a sliding screen in the right and comes in.)

Denzo: Lord Hirano! Just a moment, please. (Sits down and make a bow.)

Nagayasu: What's the matter, Denzo?

Denzo: Excuse me, but please go to my master's sitting room. My master told me to ask you so.

Nagayasu: Then Kiyomasa -----?

Fujii: No, he couldn't be -----

Denzo: Please follow me.

(Denzo and Nagayasu go out from the sliding-door in the right.)

Fujii: Oh, what on earth does it mean? Master told me that I should say to any visitor that he had left for home, should never say he is ill. And master himself sends for his visitor. The stipulation has been violated by master himself.

(The page appears to the stage passage.)

Page: I've got something to tell you.

Fujii: What is it?

Page: Lord Shikibu Sakakibara has come as messenger of the Tokugawas.

Fujii: What? Messenger of the Tokugawas?

Page: Yes, ma'am. (Goes out.)

Fujii: Well, shall I ask master? No, I believe I must say to a messenger from the Tokugawas that master left for home.

Joruri: "When she is waiting for a while, Shikibu Sakakibara, honourable warrior of Kanto as messenger of his master, comes in courteously. Fujii receives him."

(Clappers. Yasumasa Sakakibara in "Kamishimo" and wearing two swords appears to the stage passage.)

Fujii: Oh, Lord Shikibu Sakakibara! Many, many thanks for your trouble to come here as messenger from Lord Tokugawa.

Yasumasa: I've just heard Lord Higo (Kiyomasa) left for home. I appreciate your trouble as caretaker.

Fujii: -- Thank you for your compliment.
First come here, please.

Yasumasa: Excuse me.

Joruri: "Making a bow, he takes his seat".

(Yasumasa comes to the stage, and sits down in the right. Fujii puts the ash-tray in front of him.)

Fujii: You must have been tired with your long journey away from Fushimi. I'll serve you a cup of tea very soon. First have some tobacco and take a rest, please.

Yasumasa: Don't put yourself to any trouble on my account when your master has gone away.

Fujii: And for what message have you come today? Please tell me the business that I may convey your message to my master.

Yasumasa: When you go home, please convey my message to Lord Higo.

Fujii: And what is the message, may I ask?

Yasumasa: I've come here to inquire after his health by order of the Ogosho (Iyeyasu) as I didn't know that he had left for home.

Fujii: Yes, yes! (She prostrates herself before Yasunasa.)

Yasunasa: As you know, on occasion of the festival of the Toyokuni Shrine in Kyoto the other day,

Three Warriors: Katagiri, Ikeda and Asano as well as Lord Higo (Kiyomasa) went up to Kyoto accompanying the Udaijin-Ke, when at the mansion at Nijo offerings to the Toyokuni Shrine were distributed to the attendants after tasted by a person called Hachiemon Shibukawa who was a member of the reception committee. When Ikeda and Asano returned to their home places, Asano died of illness, they say. And it is rumoured that my master Iyeyasu plotted to kill the valiant warriors who had received favours at the hands of the Toyotomi's. We all were embarrassed by these rumours, when the Ogosho (Iyeyasu) heard other rumours that Lord Higo (Kiyomasa) was hastily going home after taking leave of the Udaijin-Ke on account of getting poisoned. The Ogosho was very anxious when he heard these rumours, and ordered me to investigate whether Lord Higo returned to his home place safe and sound or returned owing to illness. So I came here.

Joruri: "He asked with an intention and she answered purposely with a smile and looking at him."

Fujii: Oh, really? I'm surprised to hear the order of the Ogosho when I was wondering what was the message from him. My master Kiyomasa would be much pleased to hear his inquiry, but he left for home early in the morning the day before yesterday. Now I'm staying here in his absence I express my hearty thanks for your kindness. I think I'll go home shortly, when I'll tell the story to my master.

Yasumasa: Did Lord Higo start in good health?

Fujii: Oh, yes. Quite in good health. He said in good humour that his sons would be waiting for him as he was going home after a long absence. He hastily started before dawn.

Yasumasa: Did he go by palanquin or on horseback?

Fujii: Well, ---- he went on foot in Osaka for politeness' sake. He said he would ride on horseback at Sumiyoshi and he ordered to take his pet Teishaku sorrel with him.

Yasumasa: Did he go with his pet Teishaku Sorrel?

Fujii: Yes, sir.

Joruri: "These words of the old waitress sounded honest, but a spy had reported otherwise."

Yasumasa: Oh, I see, ma'am. I've heard that Teishaku Sorrel is a famous horse unrivaled in all the more than sixty countries of Japan. But has he got a

spare horse?

Fujii: Your question is rather queer. My master Kiyomasa was given the famous steed by the Taiko (Hideyoshi). He can not have a spare horse.

Yasumasa: Then why is Teishaku Sorrel in the stable when Lord Higo took it the day before yesterday. (He is occupied in thinking.)

Yasumasa: When I heard bad rumours about Kiyomasa with whom I had long been friendly on battlefields I was very sorry, and I couldn't understand the meaning of his departure. By order of the Ogosho, I have come quite willingly. It's too bad that you tell me a lie.

Joruri: "Fujii thought that neighing of the horse might have been heard to him, so she glozed:"

Fujii: I didn't expect that you should speak in such a way. If Kiyomasa were ill and stayed here, how should I conceal it from Lord Sakakibara who has been my master's best friend among the retainers of the Tokugawas? If you are so suspicious, I'll lead you to the stable. Please examine yourself if there is my master's horse in the stable or not. Please follow me.

Joruri: "The waitress conceals the fact audaciously. Yasumasa understood the real situation, but he did not object."

Yasumasa: As you speak so definitely, I will not examine myself. I'll go back and report to the Ogosho that Lord Higo has started for home in good health.

Fujii: Then you have no suspicion now?

Yasumasa: No suspicion at all!

Fujii: I'll tell your message to my master when I go home.

Yasumasa: I'm going now.

Fujii: I'm sorry I haven't served you even a cup of tea.

Yasumasa: Oh, never mind.

Joruri: "Yasumasa knew the trick, but he was wise enough to go back smiling and without speaking any more inquisitive words."

(Yasumasa goes to the stagepassage and turns back smiling and exchanges glances with Fujii, and goes away. Fujii follows him with her eyes.)

Fujii: I wonder how Yasumasa has come to know the fact that my master's horse is here in the stable of this mansion. He is so wise and brave.

Joruri: "She sighed as she was absorbed in meditation, when Danzo opened the sliding-door of the adjoining room and came into the room.

(Danzo comes in from the left.)

Denzo: Be careful, Fujii-dono!

Fujii: Secrecy will leak out. He seemed to have guessed that our master was staying in his room.

Denzo: Just now strange footmen came in. I asked our footmen who they were, and they said they were footmen of our neighbour's. I felt suspicious and told the page to inquire of them at the neighbour's gate, and I was reported that our neighbour had no such footmen. They may be spies of the Kanto forces.

Fujii: It might be the cause of his ~~xxx~~ suspicion..

Denzo: Lest a trouble should happen.

Fujii: Let us inform our master of the fact.

Denzo: I'll follow the messenger and find out if ~~th~~ he goes by ~~kznad~~ land or by sea.

Fujii: And inform the situation, please.

Denzo: Certainly.

(Denzo goes to the stage-passage.)

Fujii: Please be careful.

Denzo: Surely, Ma'am. I'm going now.

(Denzo goes away dancing.)

Joruri: "Just then Nagayasu Hirano came in from the adjoining room with a spy whom he had caught."

(Nagayasu comes in marching Kakusuke. Fujii looking at the sight.)

Fujii: Oh, Mr. Hirano! How is it that you have caught a strange footman and taken him here?

Nagayasu: This is surely a spy of Sakakibara who came here as messenger from Lord Tokugawa (Iyeyasu). We knew that Ono was thoughtlessly plotting to kill Yasumasa tonight on his way home. So Kiyomasa is going on horseback so as to prevent it. Equip the horse.

Fujii: Master is going out on horseback?

Nagayasu: I'll kill this footman as sacrifice to his departure.

Kakusuke: Oh, I can't stand it!
(He tries to escape, but can't.)

Joruri: "It was a brave sight to see."

----- Curtain -----

ACT III Scene I

(The Coppic of Inari on Chikuden Road. Black curtain in the back. Coppice of cedars in the right. Near it a stone shrine-gate. A stone well in the left. Water is following from the well. Two pine trees beside the well. Denzo is in the middle of the stage with his sword unsheathed, surrounded by six soldiers. Curtain opens with beating of a drum.

Soldier 1: You are retainer Denzo of Lord Higo Kato looking after the house in his absence.

Soldier 2: You are belonging to the Osaka forces and nevertheless try to prevent us who are waylaying for the sake of loyalty.

Soldier 3: You are a double dealer who secretly communicates with the Kanto forces for your own interests.

Soldier 4: Or have you been charmed by a woman and gone mad while departed with your master?

Soldier 5: If you resist us -----

Soldier 6: Well stab and kill you though you are a member of our forces.

Soldier 1: Get away, and -----

Six Soldiers: Let us pass.

Denzo: Double dealers are you! You violate the regulations of our forces and try to oppose Lord Tokugawa who is the guardian. You will cause grave consequences.

Though you are members of our forces, I can not let you behave in your way. If you go home now, I'll save your lives. If you try to kill the messenger, I'll kill every one of you.

Soldier 1: What hateful words he utters!-

Soldier 2: Now let us -----

Six Soldiers: Make a blood-offering of him.

Denzo: Come on!

(The six soldiers try to kill him with spears.

Denzo fights with them. Nagayasu Hirano appears ~~from~~ from the back of the seats and goes to the stage-passage.)

Nagayasu: Aren't you Denzo?

Denzo: Oh, you are Lord Hirano!

Nagayasu: I'll fight with these fellows. You go and beat the van.

Denzo: Certainly, sir.

Six Soldiers: Come on!

(Nagayasu goes to the stage and fights-with the six soldiers. Denzo goes out to the right.

Nagayasu goes away to the left after the six who have fled that way.

Joruri: "It is shortly after the sunset of a summer day
This is the bank of the Yodo river
His service as messenger being now finished,
Yasumasa is on his way home,
Walking along the Chikuden Road,

Accompanied by his retainers".

(Sounds of waves Yasumasa appears into stage-
passage with a crested lantern in his hand,
accompanied by three soldiers in silken 'haori'.)

Yasumasa: I did not choose horseback because I thought
it was only thirty miles or so. But it's a long
way. Let us go and rest a while there in the
coppice.

Three Soldiers: That's a good idea.

Joruri: "They walk towards the coppice,
When a footman comes running from behind,
And finding them he says:"
(Yasumasa goes to the stage. Mamesuke appears
and crosses to the stage.)

Mamesuke: Excuse me, but just a moment, please.
My Lord!

Yasumasa: Oh, you are the footman whom I saw a short while
ago? I meant to wait/ for you here. You are
welcome.

Mamesuke: I came here led by your lantern light.

Yasumasa: Retainers! You go ahead. I have something to
talk with this man privately.

Three Retainers: Yes, my lord.

Joruri: "He let his retainers go ahead."

(The three retainers go out to the right.)

Mamesuke: You are wise, my Lord you did the same when I met you some hours ago, because servants are always slanderous. And you'll give me a reward for my service, I'm sure.

Yasumasa: I'm satisfied I could know by your report the fact that Kato was ill and staying at his mansion while he pretended to have gone home.

Mamesuke: I heard rumours about him. So I became a footman to Ikeda, and managed to get into the mansion of Kato by means of a bottle of wine and knew that Teishaku Sorrel was there in the stable. Then, as I guessed you were the messenger from the Tokugawas, I informed you of the report. I am such a loyal man. I'm sure you will give me a big reward.

Yasumasa: Yes, to be sure. I'll give you a reward in the form of a big ~~y~~ sword.

Mamesuke: Eh? Do you mean to kill me?

(He tries to escape, but is cut down by Yasumasa.)

Yasumasa: The pertinent footman might have frustrated Kiyomasa's loyal intention. Now it is all right. I will report my master that Lord Higo has left for home in good health, and all the country will be peaceful.

Joruri: "He wipes off the blood and cleans his sword.
He is indeed a wise person.
Hyst then a voice is heard from among the trees."

Kiyomasa: Wait a moment, Yasumasa.

Yasumasa: What?

Joruri: "These words were spoken by Kiyomasa,
The wise and brave warrior on horseback,
His voice was so horrible
That even the coppice was terrified and resounded."
(Yasumasa goes to the left. The black curtain
in the back drops down. The River Yodo is seen
flowing. The opposit bank is seen far in the
distance. The moon of candle light, and cedar
trees. Kiyomasa Kato is on horseback.
Yasumasa looks at him.)

Yasumasa: Oh, you are Lord Higo Kato! I did not expect you.
What brought you here?

Kiyomasa: I have something to talk to you, and I
galloped here in spite of my illness ~~ANNNXXE~~
and have been waiting for you.

Joruri: "Though Yasumasa was a brave man,
He was surprised and hesitated,
But at last he determined his mind."

Yasumasa: Tell me what you are thinking.

Now that I know you have been in your mansion concealing your illness and pretending to have left ~~X~~ for home, you will not let me go back safely. If you challenge me, I'll fight with you. To kill or to be killed is a lot of a warrior I'm quite ready. Make ready for a duel, Kiyomasa.

Joruri: "He held himself ready and ~~xx~~ drew nearer,
 When Kiyomasa said smiling --- --:"

Kiyomasa: Ha, ha, ha, ha. Well said, Yasumasa. You and I have long been intimate friends. But as it is common to warriors that two friends fight when causes occur. I quite appreciate your words. However, as I know your good intention, I have no bad feeling against you.

Yasumasa: What do you say?

Kiyomasa: To tell you the truth, when I was going home after leave taking, Doken Ono and his son were speaking many slanderous words in the Castle of Osaka, and I feared they might cause a grave consequence. So I have been staying in my mansion pretending to have left for my home place, for the purpose of helping the loyal Katsumoto Katagiri. And you suddenly called on me a while ago as messenger. Of course I have no intention to oppose the Ogosho (Iyeyasu). The reason I did not see you then was

as I said. Then I heard that some wicked people were foolishly plotting to kill you on your way back. So I immediately came out riding and drove off the foolish fellows and have been waiting for you here in this coppice. I saw you kill the spy secretly. I was much impressed by your good will to keep peace.

Yasumasa: Now I understand you have been secretly in Osaka not because you suspected the Ogosho's mind but because you meant to control Ono, his son and others. Besides you kindly rode up here so as to prevent the men in ambush from killing me. Moreover you rightly understood my mind when I killed the footman. You have no bad feeling against the Ogosho?

Kiyomasa: No, never. As the Ogosho is such a wise person, all Japan will naturally come to be ruled by him. I knew it years ago.

Joruri: "Yasumasa was much surprised
To hear these words of Kiyomasa,
Which see through and foretell the future"

Yasumasa: I am surprised by your keen insight. My master has no intention to usurp the throne of Toyotomi. He simply desires that the world be peaceful, and all his plannings come from his intention to make people feel at ease.

Joruri: "Though he speaks nothing of it,
Yasumasa feels sorry of his trick
And his sin is redeemed.
Kiyomasa nods and sighs."

Kiyomasa: It may be useless to say, but if such a loyal
person as you should be in the Castle of
Osaka helping the Udaijin, I could go away at
ease.

Yasumasa: Katagiri and Hiranō are the only reliable persons.

Kiyomasa: The Mother believes the wicked Doken Ono and
his son.

Yasumasa: Her name is Yodo, and she is as shallow as the
River Yodo.

Kiyomasa: The ruler may be compared to a ship -----

Yasumasa: And the subjects, to the water.

Kiyomasa: Here is a very dangerous ----

The two: Abyso.

Joruri: "Drops of tears were seen
In eyes which had never wept
The River Yodo seemed
As if it were increasing the water,
When the drops of tears fell into it.
(The three retainers appear in the right.)

Three retainers: We've come to meet you.

Yasumasa: Thank you. Then, so long, Kiyomasa.

Kiyomasa: Well, Yasumasa -----

Yasumasa: I'm going now.

Joruri: "The brave and the loyal
Parted each other to the east and west
Their faithful hearts were as clear
As the moonlight on the banks of the River Yodo.
(Sounds of waves. Yasumasa is going out accompanied
by the retainers.)

Kiyomasa: Just a moment. When you go back to Fushimi,
please tell your master: I congratulate that
his long cherished desire is now accomplished. If
I should die of illness, I should never bear a
grudge against him. I only entreat him that he
would take care of Lord Hideyori. Please tell
him what I am thinking.

Yasumasa: I'm struck with your words. When our desire is
completed, we should enshrine you, Kiyomasa.
Then please dispell your resentment.

Kiyomasa: I'll thank you in the Hades.

Yasumasa: What?

Kiyomasa: My best regards to the Ogosho.

Yasumasa: So long.

Joruri: "He goes back to Fushimi."

(Sounds of waves. Yasumasa goes out accompnied
by his three retainers Kiyomasa follows them
with his eyes. Sound of a temple bell.)

Kiyomasa: My life is declining as the moon. A voice of a cuckoo is heard from among the clouds this summer evening.

(Denzo and Nagayasu come from behind the bush.
The three exchanges glances. Wooden clappers.)

Kiyomasa: Soon I'll go home never to return again.

(A temple bell is heard again.)

----- Curtain -----